

The Oaks Historical Society Inc

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The Oaks Historical Society Inc.
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Newsletter

March 2021

Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETS AT PICTON

After the amalgamation of Wollondilly and Picton Councils The Camden News of Thursday 13th June 1940 reported the following story on the front page:

On Wednesday of last week, 5th June, the Council of the Wollondilly Shire met for the first time at their new quarters at the Town Hall, Picton. Meeting at 10 o'clock that morning, business was not concluded until 7.30 p.m. (without a tea adjournment). The heavy list of business on the agenda paper, increased by subjects brought forward without notice, were due to the added work of the council in the administration of matters previously the sole concern of the Picton Municipal Council whose area is now merged into the Wollondilly Shire.

Of these considerable attention was given to co-ordinating the work under the one administration, and in the initial work of straightening the books of the old municipality and balancing accounts, a matter it was ultimately found necessary to specially engage qualified auditors to write up the books preparatory to adjusting them to accord with the modern method adopted by the Shire. This matter was left in the hands of the President and Shire Clerk to arrange without delay. Other matters that concerned the old Picton municipality apart from ordinary routine, which required the council's attention were: — The necessity of heavy expenditure to improve the Picton Water Service. The surfacing of the Picton-The Oaks Rd. near Abbotsford. A programme of expenditure on the main road from Picton Post Office to the railway station where £440 is required. Several items in connection with the Picton Electrical undertaking. The need for building improvements at the Town Hall to accommodate the administrative staff of the shire, the main items of which are the addition of an office and a strong room. Due to conflicting opinions by various councillors, matters did not run with the usual smoothness and in no less than two cases notices were given to rescind

motions carried by the majority of the council. These were (1) the sale of the old council chambers at The Oaks, and (2) when council decided to black-surface a small section of Picton-The Oaks Rd. near Abbotsford. However, there was one motion all councillors heartily supported, having reference to the national crisis that threatened the British Empire. It was the President who introduced the subject and he moved: 'That the Wollondilly Shire pledge itself to do anything in its power to assist the Government in the prosecution of the war.' The meeting was attended by a full council, Councillors S. E. Prosser, President; J. T. Carroll, Deputy President; G. J. Adams, E. H. K. Downes, Eric Moore, E. Wonson, J. B. Cartwright and R. C. Pearce. Messrs. H. H. Crankanthorp, Shire Clerk; N. G. Thom, engineer; and W. G. Forbes, electrical engineer, were also in attendance. The finance committee reported that a tender had been accepted for the purchase of the old council chambers at The Oaks, but a notice of motion to rescind same had been given, the subject will thus be held over until after next meeting.

Left is the Shire Hall and below the building (built by the Devitt Family) that Wollondilly Council occupied at The Oaks before amalgamation, now the site of a day care centre.





President's Report

Trish Hill

I am pleased to advise we are resuming our meetings commencing with our March meeting, hopefully we will see you on Monday 1st at 7pm. Instead of a guest speaker we are asking you to bring something you would like for a 'Show & Tell'. It is pleasing to see that we are getting school and bus group bookings once again. The schools team are set to be very busy in the coming months.

Items discussed at our business meeting were;

We have several funding applications lodged and awaiting outcomes.

Introduction of a whiteboard with a short list of jobs for working bees so people have a job to do- add to whiteboard.

We have registered an event with National Trust for the Heritage Festival April 18-May19. The event will be an exhibition of artworks from our collection. Approximately 50 works have been identified in our collection that could be added to

a passport for visitors to view during the Festival. Plans to include artwork submitted by children as well as a guest speaker and conclude with awards for children's art and showcase three Schools Program activities.

School group volunteers training day Feb 25th with 10 bookings and 6 to confirm and 5 bus group bookings.

Update of our Covid plan.

Drill Hall screen is now operated from a computer and volunteers can trial on the working bee.

Council have installed bollards adjacent to disabled parking spaces in the car park, so more care needs to be taken when navigating our car park.

Supporting SHOO with a donation of free entry and brochures for the NSW Sprint Championships to be conducted at WSU Campbelltown.

Please keep cans and bottles coming for recycling ■

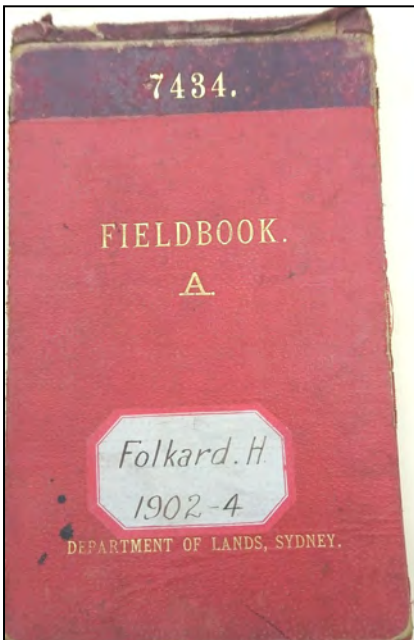


Family History & Local Archive Research Corner

Sue Davis

We have had a steady stream of Family History and Local History research requests this year. One is of Henry Kent Hughes who spent some time at Cox's River in 1837 before travelling to Avenel in Central Victoria, where he established a holding and named a creek after his family, Hughes Creek. He then went on to South Australia where his journey took him into parliament and in 1968, he become the Treasurer for the South Australia Parliament. Quite a story!

In endeavouring to finalise my research into The Oaks Hotel, volunteer, Helen, and I made a visit to the State Archives at



Kingswood. Helen found some information, for one of our researchers, about the Picton Police Station. I found some useful information about the hotel, including a card with licenses granted for the hotel from 1920 to 1937. A very useful addition for our timeline of events of the hotel. I also had a look at the series of Survey-

or General's Field Books and was excited to discover that 20 books in the collection were compiled by my Great Grandfather, Henry Folkard, from 1880s to 1920s. I managed to look at 5 of them. It is a magical feeling to actually touch the work of an ancestor and feel a connection. My grandfather worked in the Inverell, Tingha and Glenn Innes area. I was amazed at the detail of the drawings and the information they provide for Family History research. The maps need to be seen on a larger scale to see the detail they contain so I can't reproduce them in the newsletter but I have included the cover and extract of one. It must have been a lonely life as his Probate Papers indicate that Henry's possessions were basically the tools of his trade as a licensed surveyor, his horses, tent and camping equipment etc. Now that I have learned how to access the Surveyor General Field books, I have started to look for ones from the local area of The Oaks and Picton. More news to come in this area!

You never know where history connections will lead you!

Happy researching ■

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| 5 | Near Wandsworth to G. N. Railway | Nov 83 |
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| | and Armistade Road near Ollera | |
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| | to Co. Hardinge (Part in title | to |
| 61 | book 115) | 18 Sept 83 |

H. J. Folkard Esq.
18th October 1887



Schoolies Report

Bev Batros

Our year began last Thursday with 20 people attending our organisational and training day. We welcomed some new members Bruce Brown, Colleen Haynes, Michael Haynes, Sharon Ihlein and Judy Murdoch to the team as well as our current permanent team and reserves. Our longest serving member is Shirley Carlon who has been with the program for an extraordinary 30 years! She has had a variety of roles but is currently the head chef! Jacquie Finley, our energetic timekeeper, has been with the program for about 8 years and Pam Stephenson who is probably our most consistent attendee, has been with us for over 10 years. Glenis Pride, our distinguished school-teacher, has notched up 10 years and John Mainwaring, our mining expert, thinks probably 8 years. Julie Littler, now a reserve has spent at least 8 years with the program too, as have Kadrienne and Gary Ireland. Sue Davis has also been involved for over 10 years as well. What an incredible bunch of people to give so many years in service to their community. The rest of us "newbies" pale into comparison with 1 to 6 years.

During the morning Sue Davis, our bookings officer and a huge support to our team led us through some activities

about why the program is so successful, the risk management and our commitments and responsibilities. When revising our First Aid we discovered that "send for Kevin, he fixes everything", despite being true, could not be the answer to our First Aid questions! Whilst we covered things we hope will never happen such as snakebites, choking, burns and using the defibrillator, it was important revision.



Terms 1 and 2 are fully booked with schools from Pic-

ton High, Thirlmere, Macquarie Fields, The Oaks, Camden, Condell Park Christian and Tahmoor booked in. Macquarie Fields are bringing 260 children over a number of weeks! Let's hope all goes well COVID wise and we can complete all these bookings. I am

sure it would make our Treasurer very happy ■

Photos supplied by Bev Batros from Thursday's training day



ATTENTION GRANDPARENTS



Looking for something for the grandkids to do? Enter our Art Competition "A Moment in History" held in conjunction with our exhibition for the National Trust Heritage Festival. The possible topics are endless! Aboriginal life,

bush rangers, landing on the moon, gold mining, the First Settlement just to name a few!

- Categories – Preschool, K -2, Years 3-6, High School
- Any medium. A3 or A4 size.
- Winners get a \$20 voucher
- Entries to the Heritage Centre by 5th April
- Entries on display during April/May
- On the back put the child's name, school year, topic and an email address.

Details of the presentation ceremony on Sunday 16th May will be in the next newsletter. Even if your grandchild does not enter the competition, they can come along on that day and the children can try activities from the "olden days" like washing using a mangle, using slate boards, painting boomerangs and apple grading to name a few.

KATE'S SLICE

- 1 cup of self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/2 cup of desiccated coconut
- 125 butter, melted
- Topping
- 1/4 cup self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup desiccated coconut
- 1/2 cup sultanas
- 1/2 cup crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten

Method

In a large bowl, combine sifted flour, sugar and coconut. Stir in butter and press mixture firmly into a prepared, greased and lined 18 x 28 cm slice tray. Bake for 10mins, remove and leave oven on.

For topping sift flour and sugar into a large bowl and add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour topping over base and bake further 25-30 minutes until golden brown and cut into squares and serve warm or cold.

This recipe has been in our office in-tray for some time and I thought we should share it. It has been made and recommended by some of our members and is thought to have originated from Colleen Haynes.

BURRAGORANG VALLEY

Poem from our archives by Phillip Scarlett

The beautiful Burragorang Valley, what a sight it used to be
With flowing streams and crimson cliffs, and beautiful old oak trees
The Wollondilly flowing, over lapstones to the sea
We all lived in peace and harmony



There were Laceys, Hunts and Maxwell's, McKinnons, Smith and Jones, Norris, King and Holohan, also made their homes

There were Campbells, Catts and Riley, Nolans, Flynn's and Hayes
All hoping gladly, to spend their remaining days

The Italians grew tomatoes, the old hands grew their corn
To fatten up their porkers, and feed their calves new born
Nick Toovey cut his block wood, Scarlett's cut the logs
Cashie carts to Liverpool, to build houses for the mobs

We are all old timers now thinking of days gone by

It seems like only yesterday but doesn't time fly

We sit around and reminisce of how it used to be

And pass on our yarns of Burragorang history



A long way out on the southern end, lies lovely Jooriland
Bought up by Macathur's, to keep Charles Thirst in hand
Then bought by Pye brothers, of Goolandadie fame
The best place in the valley, with a beautiful sounding name

There were Wintle's, Quig's and Carlon's, Daley's, Moore's and Nott's

McMahons down the bottom and Donohoe's up the top
The distance did not bother the McMahon boys as they rode
Up to the Donohoe clan to claim their three new brides

With horses bred at Bran Jan, way out Kowmung way
Butler's coaches bought the mail, and supplies each day
Then Bill Jenkins started up, with his black Buick car
The George and Harold carried on till all scattered far

The beautiful Burragorang Valley, What a sight it used to be

With flowing streams and crimson cliffs, and beautiful old oak trees

The Wollondilly flowing, over lapstones to the sea
Along came the Water Board, and no longer could it be

The great dam wall went up, after twelve long years of work
The farmers all had to go, where new challenges did lurk
Some only went to Camden, and villages around
Nothing was the same again, as it was on our old ground

Some farmers chose to stay, and go out the other way

The old Colong Stock Route being bought back into play

With Neville on the dozer, Ralph and Morrie on the grog

Wife Val a true blue backup, to help with the job



No Phippen bus to bring to bring the rush, to The Knoll for the long weekend

No swimmers in the river, or fishermen round the bend

No lying in the sunshine, to get an all over tan

All that had to go for The Warragamba Dam

No more old time dances, raising money for the P&C

No more twenty first birthdays, and no more kitchen teas

Bill Rigby on piano, Mark Humphrey on the sax

No more Thelly Drummond, belting out the gypsy tap

Now in the west end, lies abandoned Yerranderie

A long rough drive on Nev's new road, re-tracing memories

With Deacon's house a sentinel, still standing on the hill

While all the mines oh so quiet, hiding their silver still



We are all old timers now thinking of days gone by

It seems like only yesterday but doesn't time fly

We sit around and reminisce of how it used to be

And pass on our yarns of Burragorang history....

And pass on our yarns of Burragorang history.....

THE PACKENHAM FAMILY OF EASTVIEW VILLA THE OAKS

William Packenham was born in 1826 at New Brompton, Kent, England. He was the eldest son of William and Ann Packenham and worked as a shipwright and later a builder. He was quite young when he married and his wife and first child died in 1848.

He travelled to Sydney and had contracts with the newly formed Sydney Railway Co. Sometime prior to 1853 he returned to England to supervise contracts for railway carriages and machinery to be shipped to Sydney, where the construction of the Sydney to Parramatta rail line was progressing. While in Kent, he met and married Sarah Greathead at North Aylesford in Kent on 16th May, 1853. Sarah was the daughter of Joseph Greathead, a chemist and his wife Sarah who following the wedding of their daughter sailed to Melbourne on board "Diana" in August 1853 with their younger children, settling in Collingwood.

After William and Sarah's first child, Sarah, was born at Northfleet on 14th

Jan. 1854 they left England on board the barque "Bolton" which was loaded with a cargo of rolling stock and machinery bound for Sydney. Sarah disembarked in Melbourne to stay with her parents where she gave birth to a son, William Alfred 18th

April, 1855. William sailed on to Sydney arriving on March 10th, 1855. It is believed that William returned to Melbourne and then accompanied Sarah in the SS "Yarra-Yarra" to Sydney arriving in June 1855.

Meanwhile, William had found work with the railways at Campbelltown and accommodation in the thriving town. Three more children were born while the family lived in Campbelltown.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 22 Dec. 1859 carried an advertisement for a NOTICE OF PARTNERSHIP. William Packenham and Dwight Allen had entered into a partnership as Timber Merchants, Builders, etc. at the Railway Timber Yard (formerly J. H. Goodlet and Co.) The business would in future be carried on under the style of PACKENHAM and ALLEN, and the partners hoped, by strict attention to business and small profits, to enjoy a fair share of patronage and support. It was intended to

keep a large assortment of foreign and colonial timber, doors, mouldings, skirtings etc. which they planned to sell at a slight advance on Sydney prices. The partnership could not have been successful for by the 7th June, 1860 it had been dissolved. William Packenham was to be responsible for payments all debts.

It was about this time that William and Sarah moved their growing family to Vanderville (The Oaks) where they purchased from Emmaline Wild, two blocks of land in the new village of Vanderville on 8th May 1863. Sarah's brother, Alfred Methley Greathead purchased the adjoining blocks a month later. In Nov 1869 Alfred's blocks were transferred to William and Sarah Packenham in trust for Sarah Packenham. East View Villa (pictured) was the name of the new home built by William.

In 1863 William Packenham was listed as an innkeeper and held a Publican's license for The Oaks Hotel,

Vanderville from 3rd Oct. 1863 until 30th June 1864. This would be the original hotel at the end of William Street and when he was declared bankrupt in 1864, the hotel was abandoned.



William continued his trade as a builder and was widely respected in

the district. In May 1871 he was working on the construction of the church in Nattai when he received the news of the drowning of his sixteen year old son William Jnr. In company with another young man, William Jnr. had been bringing supplies to his father. Heavy rain had caused the Nattai river to rise too high for the boys to cross and it appeared that they had camped on the river bank overnight and attempted to cross the next morning. Mr R. Cranfield found a saddle and swag which William identified as belonging to his son and searches were made every day until the bodies were found down the river on 8th June.

The Packenham family continued to live at East View Villa until about 1884 when William moved to Camden where he had purchased Nepean House. Working with his son Joseph they reputedly were responsible for the construction of many buildings in the district. Cont over..

THE PACKENHAM FAMILY OF EASTVIEW VILLA THE OAKS CONTINUED.....

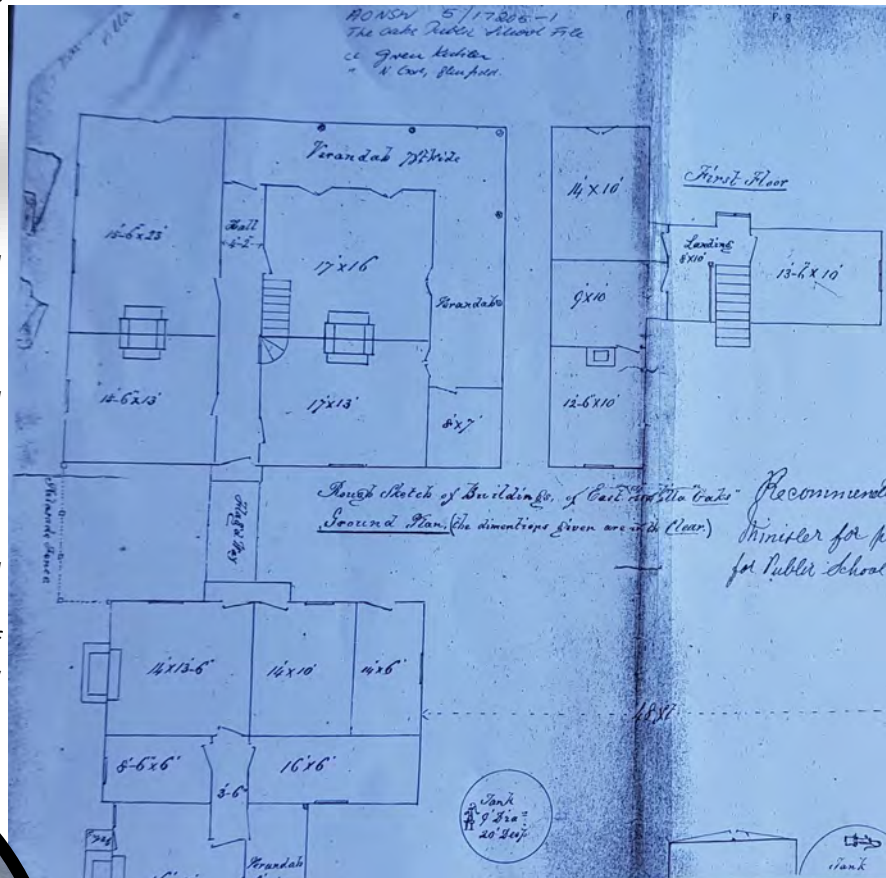


In the Evening News, 12 Nov, 1884 William (pictured) advertised the sale of East View Villa described as being situated on the heights of Vanderville, at The Oaks, 1,000ft above sea level, a pretty family residence, containing eight large rooms, bath-room and verandah, just complet-

ed; also detached dining-room, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, washhouse, with copper and laundry, coach-house and stables, two large underground tanks to hold 8000 gallons, flower garden and shrubbery nicely laid out, fruit and vegetable garden, about ¼ acre, and a small paddock under cultivation. The whole contains 2½ acres of splendid land, 10 miles from Camden or Picton stations; good roads through beautiful country. The view is second to none in NSW. Such a chance of securing a beautiful, healthy home seldom occurs.

for new school buildings. William Packenham was prepared to sell for £740. However the Council of Education decided against the purchase.

It is possible that East View Villa was leased by Mrs Metcalfe who advertised in The Balmain Observer, 1st Jan 1887. *SPLENDID locality for Holiday Excursions, East View Villa, Vanderville Heights, The Oaks, Near Picton. Beautiful Scenery. Healthy and cool Summer Residence. Every Accommodation. Home Comforts. Charges Moderate. Conveyance to meet Morning Train. Letters promptly attended to. Post delivered Daily. Fresh Milk and Butter. Buggy kept. Good Shooting close at hand. MRS. METCALFE.*



On 29th September 1888

The Sydney Mail reported the destruction by fire of an untenanted villa residence, the property of Mr. W. Packenham at The Oaks on Sunday 9th September.

The origin of the fire was a mystery. At the inquest, the local coroner returned an open verdict. The place was insured in the Mercantile Mutual Insurance.



Mr Packenham will wait upon intending purchasers at Camden station on being communicated with. Address East View Villa, The Oaks.

It seems that the house failed to sell and a proposal to purchase the property was made by Inspector Murray to the Council of Education as a site

The Packenham family lived at Nepean House and as their children married most of them left the district. Of their ten children only Emma remained in Camden.

The Golden Wedding Anniversary of William and Sarah was celebrated at the Lithgow home of their daughter Clara (Mrs C. Lamb) on 16th May 1903.

At the age of 81 years William Packenham died on 23rd Oct. 1907 at the residence of his daughter "Longford", Lithgow. He had been a resident of the The Oaks and Camden District for 54 years. Sarah died eleven years later at the home of her daughter Clara, at "Strath Aden", Marrickville ■

Source: Wollondilly Heritage Centre Archives

Reminders, News & Info

| WEEKEND ROSTER | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| MARCH | |
| Colleen & Kathy | Saturday, 6 |
| Viv & Bob | Sunday, 7 |
| Pam & | Saturday, 13 |
| Kaye & Jim | Sunday, 14 |
| Debbie & Allen | Saturday, 20 |
| Trish & Kevin | Sunday, 21 |
| Sue & Helen (Working Bee) | Saturday, 27 |
| Bev & David | Sunday, 28 |



OAKDALE LIVE MUSIC NIGHT


Friday 5 March | 3 - 10pm
Willis Park, Oakdale

Live music
Food & Market Stalls
Jumping Castle
Face painting

Featuring Award Winning Country artist Ian Burns
along with other Wollondilly local performers




| MONTHLY SUPPER ROSTER | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| March | Bring a plate |
| April | Jan & Sue |
| May | ? & Marie |
| June | Doreen & Ben |
| July | Colleen & Bev |
| August | Debbie & Pam |
| September | Shirley & Trish |
| October | Vivian & Pam McV |
| November | Volunteers reqd |
| December | Please bring a plate |



Healing Through Art

Connecting Community. Everyone. Everywhere.


Free for Wollondilly & Wingecarribee residents

Use Art as a tool to express yourself and make new connections in a safe, non-judgemental environment with other like-minded people. The bushfires of 2019 impacted many communities and caused ongoing stress to those that experienced this traumatic event. Trauma is a complex experience to live through and when overlooked can result in long-lasting effects that could impact your everyday life. Referrals for additional support can be made.

Sessions will be held in different locations across Wollondilly & Wingecarribee from February to June 2021.

Contact us on 4647 1283 for more information & to register

All supplies are provided



phn SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY
An Australian Government Initiative Made with PosterMyWall.com

Please call Big Yellow Umbrella on 4647 1283 to register

Photos pictured in the Burragorang Valley poem on page 4 are:

- Holohan family at Moore Park, Burragorang.
- Neville Lang on his dozer c1950's
- And again below-Merle (Biffin) Kelly & Eileen (Holohan) O'Brien on Pippens Bus
- Deacons House at Yerranderie



MONTHLY MEETINGS: The Oaks Historical Society Inc. holds its meetings on the first Monday of each month (except January) at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum, 43 Edward St. The Oaks starting at 7.00pm. We are pleased to say we resuming our meetings commencing with our March meeting. Our patrons are Richard Booth and Judith Hannan. The Oaks Historical Society Inc. takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the articles, papers or reviews that appear in this newsletter. The statements made or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Oaks Historical Society Inc. Copies of the minutes are available.

If undelivered, please return to:-
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